(b) if so, whether the excessive use of money power to get membership of the Upper House of Parliament is sabotaging the democratic style of elections in the country; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard and what immediate steps would be taken to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) In the context of several newspaper reports highlighting apprehensions about use of money power in biennial elections to Rajya Sabha, the Election Commission has alerted the Finance Ministry to do its best of prevent use of money power in these elections.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some corrective steps have been suggested which are under examination by the Government.

Compulsory voting

3323. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make voting compulsory to streamline the system of elections in the coming elections;

(b) what major steps are being taken with regard to the election system; and

(c) by when this would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of fourlane bypass between Kandla and Khari Rehan

3324. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kandla Port Trust (KPT) has agreed to a proposal for construction of fourlane bypass road between Kandla and Khari Rehan (K.K. Road);

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that the tenders for this project were to be received by N.H.A.I. on 21.12.1999 and tender notice was published in Local Daily Sandesh dated 16.11.1999;

(d) the reasons for not starting of execution of this project; and

(e) the revised programme of execution of this project with its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Kandla Port Trust had a proposal for widening of Kandla-Kharirohar Road (K.K. Road) into four-lane from the junction of National Highway No. 8-A at Gandhidham to Oil Jetty Area at Kandla, in a length of 12 Kms. Besides, the scheme involved construction of bridge over Nakti Creek and construction of one No. of Rail-Over-Bridge (R.O.B.) on the said road.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) On reviewing the traffic scenario, the Kandla Port has now reduced the scope of work to rehabilitating the existing deteriorated two lane K.K. Road by providing a layer of Asphalt Carpet and constructing a bridge over Nakti Creek. The Port proposes to execute this work through National Highways Authority of India (N.H.A.I).

Modifications of National Highways Development Bill

3325. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modify the National Highways Development (Fund and Cess) Bill to include the 50 paise tranche of Re. 1 cess per litre of diesel and petrol meant for rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed by Government for development of roads in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c)The Central Road Fund Bill is at a preliminary stage. It has however been decided that out of the total cess levied on High Speed Diesel and Petrol, 50 per cent of the cess levied on High Speed Diesel will be transferred to Ministry of Rural Development for developing rural roads.

Infrastructure status for Shipping Industry

3326. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;